

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SANTIA 02423 031959Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8746

S E C R E T SANTIAGO 2423

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EXDIS

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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, PGOV, CI
SUBJECT: LETELIER/MOFFITT ASSASSINATION INVESTIGATION

1. US LAWYER JAMES WECK ARRIVED IN SANTIAGO APRIL 1 AND
ASKED TO MEET WITH PROPPER ON THE INVOLVEMENT OF MICHAEL TOWNLEY IN
THE LETELIER CASE. APPARENTLY, WECK, WHO IS BASED IN POMPANO BEACH AN
D
IS THE TOWNLEY FAMILY ATTORNEY, CAME TO CHILE AT THE REQUEST OF T
TOWNLEY'S FATHER.

2. WECK MET WITH PROPPER IN THE EMBASSY FOR APPROXIMATELY ONE-HALF
HOUR THE EVENING OF APRIL 1. OTHERS PRESENT AT THE DISCUSSION WERE
SCHERRER AND CORNICK OF THE FBI AND USG LAWYER ETCHEBERRY. TOWNLEY'S
WIFE, MARIANA CALLEJAS, ACCOMPANIED WECK TO THE EMBASSY BUT DID NOT
PARTICIPATE IN THE DISCUSSION.

3. WECK IS NOT A CRIMINAL LAWYER. WHILE HE HAD TALKED TO TOWNLEY'S
CHILEAN LAWYER, MANUEL ACUNA, AND TO TOWNLEY HIMSELF, HE APPEARED TO
KNOW VERY LITTLE ABOUT THE CASE AND SEEMED TO HAVE A HARD TIME
GRASPING THE LITTLE WE TOLD HIM. THE BASIC MESSAGE CONVEYED WAS THAT
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TOWNLEY IS IN VERY SERIOUS TROUBLE UNDER US LAW AND THAT HIS ONLY HOP
E
AT THIS POINT IS TO COOPERATE FULLY WITH THE USG IN RELATING WHAT
HAPPENED AND REACHING SOME PLEA AGREEMENT. BUT NO FACTS OF THE CASE
WERE DISCUSSED AND NO PLEA NEGOTIATIONS CONDUCTED. WECK MADE NO
SPECIFIC REQUEST NOR DID HE INDICATE THE ACTIONS, IF ANY, HE I
INTENDS TO TAKE. THE EXPULSION ISSUE DID NOT COME UP. HOWEVER, BY

THE END OF THE CONVERSATION, WECK SEEMED CONVINCED THERE WAS LITTLE
HE COULD ACCOMPLISH BY REMAINING IN CHILE.
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